

# The Learning Community | *a public charter school*

Board of Directors Meeting  
Thursday, December 1st, 2011

## PRESENT (6)

BOARD: Sarah Friedman, Lynn Lotierzo, Janice O'Donnell, Polly Ulichny, Liban Valenzuela, Roberta J. Winters

## Absent (3)

BOARD: Kirsten Shrout Fernandes, Marc Greenfield, Hillary Salmons

TEAM MEMBERS: Derek Collamati, Kath Connolly, Mindy Farrow, Jeremy Giller, Meg O'Leary, Marie Whitten

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***The meeting was convened at 5:00 p.m.***

## Welcome & Introductions: Derek Collamati

Introductions were made. Janice O'Donnell discussed Derek's new role as Individual Giving and Special Events Director.

## Minutes

The minutes from the 10/6/11 Board Meeting were discussed. A motion was made to accept the minutes. The motion was seconded, and the minutes were accepted unanimously.

## RIDE Targets

Sarah Friedman presented our plan for meeting and exceeding RIDE targets and closing our achievement gaps. The review process starts again next year. RIDE has provided proficiency targets that need to be met.

RIDE reviews data as follows:

1. Student growth
2. Mean prediction of poverty
3. Always outperform surrounding districts
4. Absolute proficiency

Sarah distributed RIDE Absolute Proficiency Targets that were reviewed and discussed.

The Learning Community Board will be interviewed as part of the renewal process.

## Evaluation Process to RIDE

Polly Ulichny discussed the RIDE evaluation process. The evaluation is a thorough and intense process that includes the following four categories: Highly Effective, Effective, Developing and Ineffective.

The Learning Community conducts evaluations twice a year for the first three years after a teacher is hired. After the first three years, teachers are evaluated one time per year if they have had three consecutive effective or above evaluations.

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This highly effective evaluation system includes the following steps:

- Polly observes 60-90 minutes of Instruction
- Polly conducts a 40-45 minute debrief with each teacher evaluated
- Polly completes a rubric for each teacher with suggestions on what to work on
- The observations go to the Co-Directors and the Director of Instruction
- The teachers then work with coaches to improve performance in the areas needed
- The Co-Directors and Director of Instruction also observe classrooms

The Learning Community has an intensive evaluation system in place that includes all of the components that the state requires. Polly Ulichny and the Co-Directors have worked together to create a proposal to continue with this evaluation process that they have submitted to RIDE.

The Co-Directors will also be evaluated by an external evaluator with oversight and direction from the Board.

## Budget Update

Marie Whitten provided the following budget updates.

- Review of budget report.
- Blue Cross health insurance premium increase of 13-14% for next year. Finance budgeted a 15% increase. They are also getting rates from Tufts.

## RI Foundation Proposal & Foundation Conversations

Jeremy Giller provided a foundation update as follows:

- Jeremy's focus is now on foundation relations and grant seeking.
- Submitted a request to the RI Foundation.
- National Development
  - Kellogg Foundation in Michigan
  - Barr Foundation
- Also reaching out to a half dozen other foundations.

Kath Connolly shared a physical education article that was recently published in the Providence Journal about The Learning Community.

## Coalition of Essential Schools (CES) Visit

CES recently spent the day at the school visiting classrooms as part of their conference in Rhode Island. They provided lots of positive feedback.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made and seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 7:02pm

The next Board meeting is February, 2, 2011 from 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Recorded by Mindy Farrow